



Solidarność: Poland's Struggle for Freedom, 1980-1990

The Creation of an Exhibit

In October 2010, the Walter P. Reuther Library opened *Solidarność: Poland's Struggle for Freedom, 1980-1990*, an exhibit commemorating the 30th anniversary of events that led to free elections in Poland and the end of the Cold War in Eastern Europe. By far one of the most powerful and exciting exhibits the Reuther Library staff has ever created, it required hundreds of hours of research, writing, and design planning. The long hours that went into launching the exhibit were recognized when Lech Wałęsa, former president of Poland, visited Wayne State University to serve as the guest speaker at the opening reception. The exhibit features photographs documenting Solidarność as a social movement, a trade union, and a political party. It also showcases graphics used by the underground press to inspire hope and determination in the people of Poland. Posters, stamps, postcards, and other memorabilia illustrate how visual imagery was used during this historical time.

Where the exhibit's design and text were outlined in minute detail, its origin was more serendipitous in nature. Walking through the stacks of the Reuther, archivist Dan Golodner came across boxes labeled "Solidarity," in which he discovered 6 linear feet of communications and newsletters from the Polish underground to activists in the United States. A month later, Dan was at the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) headquarters in Washington, D.C., and noticed framed Solidarność posters. Upon returning to the Reuther and gaining support from colleagues, he brought the idea of a small exhibit focused on artwork used during the "Polish revolution" to then-director Mike Smith. The exhibit would emphasize the way art was used by the movement to promote messages that fueled activism. Two years later, the small project Dan originally proposed turned into a massive exhibit that took over the Reuther's first floor atrium.

The primary challenge in turning a small exhibit into something substantially bigger is ensuring there is enough content. The Reuther possessed some materials, but not what would be required to fill a large-scale gallery. The exhibit team had to think of other ways to communicate the story of Solidarność, and

began brainstorming about what graphics and iconography were repeated over and over in photographs or descriptions of events. One image that kept coming up was the fence that separated workers from their families during the early strikes. The workers remained behind the gates of shipyards and factories while their families awaited news on the other side, leaving flowers, messages, and pictures of Pope John Paul II or the Black Madonna to show their support. Prayer candles illuminated these fences day and night, as the adornments took on a life of their own. The exhibit team decided to recreate a fence, complete with religious icons, candles, and flowers. Reuther staff member Bill Gulley proved invaluable in that project.



Archivist Dan Golodner looks on while exhibit designer Katie Dowgiewicz adds dried flowers to the fence.

The idea of bringing a part of Solidarność Poland to Detroit through recreating specific symbolism spread to other parts of the exhibit as well. When Solidarność was declared illegal and forced to go underground, nontraditional means of communication were necessary. Printed materials and graffiti were among the peaceful methods supporters used to tell authorities that Solidarność was still alive, and to let the people of Poland know that freedom was at hand. Based on photographs taken in cities throughout Poland, the exhibit team decided to build a replica brick wall with graffiti. After deciding that the only authentic way to proceed was to use real brick, archivist Kristen Chinery and volunteers from her family spent two weeks designing and constructing a 4 ft. x 6 ft. wall that could be moved when needed but was still able to be secured for safety reasons.



The constructed and graffitied wall is seen to the left of the exhibit panels.

The last of the large three dimensional objects the exhibit team wanted to create was a replica of the "21 Demands,"
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Collections Now Open for Research

SEIU Executive Office: John Sweeney Records

1921-1995 [177.5 linear feet]

Before John Sweeney headed the AFL-CIO (1996-2009), he served as president of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU). The SEIU Executive Office: John Sweeney Records document his tenure (1980-1995), although portions of these records predate this time period. The records document the activities of SEIU local unions, joint councils, and other SEIU affiliates. In addition, the files of SEIU executive board members, vice presidents, divisions, departments, and staff members are found within the collection.

Researchers can also view records on the meetings, hearings, conventions, and conferences Sweeney attended and at which he often spoke or testified. Records on SEIU's conventions from its inception in 1921 until 1992 also appear. The convention records reveal major policy shifts of the union. Sweeney's interest in healthcare and the union's external relationships with labor organizations and others are also documented within these records.



John Sweeney at the SEIU Local 1199 Healthcare Conference, June 1981.

rights. Part 2 contains Executive Board, Joint Council, and individual unit meeting minutes, correspondence, negotiations, and agreements. Six boxes of audiovisual material including photographs, films, and video tapes also appear in Part 2.

AFSCME Office of the Secretary-Treasurer: William Lucy Records

1970-2001, bulk 1972-2000 [88 linear feet]

William Lucy served as AFSCME Secretary-Treasurer for 38 years, 1972-2010. Earning his stripes as a leader of the 1968 AFSCME sanitation workers' strike in Memphis at which Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated, Lucy was elected Secretary-Treasurer, the union's number two position, in 1972. These records document the activities of AFSCME during Lucy's tenure, as well as Lucy's interest in African American civil rights. Lucy's involvement in increasing voter turnout among African Americans, instituting Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday as a national holiday, and ending apartheid in South Africa, as well as his participation in Public Services International and the AFL-CIO Executive Council are all documented in these records.



Bill Lucy speaks at the March for Jobs, Justice, Freedom in Washington, D.C., August 27, 1983.

WDIV Transcripts

1973-1978, bulk 1977-1978 [52 linear feet]

WDIV began as WWDT in March 1947. It was the first television station in Michigan and the sixth in the United States. The call letters were changed to WWJ-TV in May 1947. Less than a month later, the station's first newscast was televised. In March 1948, WWJ-TV joined the National Broadcasting Company (NBC). A new studio was added onto the radio building on Lafayette Boulevard in Detroit in 1952. In May 1978, Post-Newsweek Stations, Inc. took over, changing the station's call letters to the current WDIV. The WDIV Transcripts contain the scripts of news broadcasts from NBC's Detroit affiliate, WDIV-Channel 4. They consist of the drafts from the morning, noon, evening, and 11:00 PM newscasts and document local, national, and international news events from the dates covered. Sporting events, weather, and human-interest stories appear as well.

UAW Local 887 Records, Part 2

1947-1986, bulk 1950-1977 [11 linear feet]

Local 887 of the United Auto Workers was borne out of labor struggles between its predecessor union, UAW-CIO Local 683, and North American Aviation in Los Angeles shortly before American involvement in WWII. Because the company produces military aircraft, the federal government has historically been closely involved with labor disputes affecting Local 887's members. The records of UAW Local 887 reflect the union's long struggle with management over such issues as wages and union

Dolores Huerta Papers

1970-1995 [32 linear feet]



*Dolores Huerta, 1973
Photographer: Cris Sanchez*

A co-founder of the United Farm Workers of America (UFW), Huerta first saw the need for such an organization as a teacher whose hungry students were the children of migrant workers. Huerta met Cesar Chavez in the late 1950s, and they founded the UFW in 1962. The Dolores Huerta Papers primarily deal with boycotts, strikes, and the ongoing struggle for workers' rights and organizations involved in such matters.

Merrill-Palmer Institute Records

1920-1981, bulk 1928-1973 [80.5 linear feet]

The Merrill-Palmer Institute was founded in 1920 by an endowment from Lizzie Merrill Palmer. Throughout its 61 years of independent operation, the Institute was greatly respected and internationally known as one of the top institutions for education, training, and research in child development. Merrill-Palmer staff conducted and published studies on families and children; oper-

ated a nursery school, children's camps, and clubs; offered marriage and family counseling; and performed community service work. The Institute accepted college and graduate students from around the world and taught courses and provided research and laboratory experience unavailable elsewhere. The Records illustrate the Institute's commitment to research, education, and outreach through documentation of its programs, projects, and administration. They include research and studies the Institute undertook; course information; nursery school, camp, and club information; correspondence with students, individuals, and organizations; presidential and faculty files; and day-to-day operational information.



Merrill Palmer students have a juice snack, circa 1940s

Stephen Lighthill Film Collection

1979-1980 [21 linear feet]

Stephen Lighthill has been involved in a number of film productions as a camera operator, cinematographer, and director. In 1979, he produced and directed the documentary film *Taking Back Detroit*. The film features a movement that took an alternative approach to addressing Detroit's long-term economic difficulties. The primary subjects are Kenneth V. Cockrel, Justin C. "Chuck" Ravitz, Sheila Murphy (Cockrel), and the Detroit Alliance for a Rational Economy (D.A.R.E.). The film highlights the problems facing Detroit in 1979, and it details the city's crumbling industrial, business, and residential infrastructure. It also documents Detroit city council meetings, community meetings, D.A.R.E. meetings, petition drives, and D.A.R.E.'s "City Life in the '80s" conference. Lighthill's collection includes raw sound and film footage for *Taking Back Detroit*, as well as intermediate materials from the filmmaking process.

Emma Schaver Papers

1910-2000, bulk 1923-1975 [106 linear feet]



Emma Schaver, circa 1933

Emma Lazaroff Schaver (1905-2003) was best known as a Jewish opera and folk singer and labor Zionist. She was a member of the first Jewish delegation to the Displaced Persons (DP) camps after World War II where she sang to Holocaust survivors. She toured the world as a soprano with various opera companies and as a soloist. Along with her husband, Morris Schaver, Emma was respected for promoting Jewish culture in the United States, and for philanthropic work in the Detroit Jewish community and Israel. The Emma Schaver Papers contain correspondence with family, friends, and Zionist and Israeli leaders covering her career, phil-

anthropic, and Zionist activities. The collection also includes correspondence, diary fragments, notebooks, authorization papers, and photographs from her experiences in the DP camps. Her music career is highlighted through newspaper clippings, photographs, sound recordings, and concert posters and programs. Her charitable work and Zionist activities are documented through newspaper clippings, publicity, medals, awards, and plaques. A large number of scrapbooks can be found, both assembled by Emma and given to her, which highlight her career and activities, as well as those of her husband and son, Isaac. Schaver's personal life is represented through family photographs and photo albums.

UFW Office of the President: Arturo Rodriguez Records

1938-1997, bulk 1976-1996 [69.5 linear feet]

Arturo Rodriguez became president of the United Farm Workers (UFW) in 1993 upon the death of Cesar Chavez, founding president of the UFW and Rodriguez's father-in-law and mentor. Rodriguez first became involved in the UFW's grape boycott while in college. After finishing graduate school, he went to work full time for the UFW. Upon becoming president, Rodriguez led a significant field organizing and contract negotiating drive, greatly increasing membership. Under his leadership, the UFW has also campaigned for new laws and regulations protecting immigrant and farm workers. The UFW Office of the President: Arturo Rodriguez Records consist of files from both Cesar Chavez and Arturo Rodriguez's tenures. These records include information on collective bargaining agreements, special events, public actions, correspondence, UFW conventions, UFW benefit and service organizations, and UFW organizing and boycott efforts. Files predating Arturo Rodriguez's election as UFW president also appear.

More Newly Opened Collections:

Labor:

- AFSCME Retiree Department Records
- Agricultural Workers History Collection
- ALPA Miami EAL-MEC Records
- Richard Ellington Papers
- SEIU Organizing Department Records
- Mark Sharwood Papers
- Robert Thomas Papers
- UAW President's Office: Douglas Fraser Records, Part 2
- UAW President's Office: Leonard Woodcock Records, Part 2
- UFW Administration Department Records, Part 3
- UFW Hawaii Boycott Committee Records
- UFW Jersey Boycott Office Records
- UFW Public Relations: Jocelyn Sherman Records
- UFWOC New Orleans Boycott Office Records
- A. Randall Vinitzky Papers

Urban:

- Harriet Berg Dance Archives, Part 2
- Elise Hatt Campbell Papers
- Citizen Action Records

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Meet the new University Archivist

Casey Westerman

Wayne State University has always been an unusual institution, so it should be no surprise that the Wayne State University Archives presents its own unique challenges. I arrived in Detroit last winter, after three years studying literature at the University of Georgia, in order to begin work as the Wayne State University Archivist. The first surprising fact about this position is that, being housed in the Reuther Library, our university collections are under the umbrella of our labor collections. My archival background includes six years as an archivist for Cornell University's Kheel Center for Labor-Management Documentation and Archives, but here in the Reuther, I'm one of the few archivists who isn't working on union and labor collections.

In my first six months on the job, I've learned a lot about Wayne State's history; it's a complicated story, hard to grasp, and harder to summarize. It's interesting, for example, that Wayne State University celebrated its first centennial in 1968, when it was only twelve years old. Wayne State University dates back to 1956, and Wayne University was so named in 1934, but its predecessor institutions were many and varied—among them, the Detroit Medical College (founded 1868), the Detroit Teachers College (founded, as the Detroit Normal Training School, in 1881), and the Detroit Junior College (1917). It sometimes seems that all these distinct schools coalesced naturally, like a solar system, as if a large research university was inevitable; of course, it's been fighting to survive and thrive since the very beginning.

By virtue of its location at the center of Detroit, Wayne State has always been a commuter school serving a diverse population—diverse in terms of race, age, and employment status. Students are likely to live off-campus, to work full-time, and to take night classes. As a result, the student experience here is likely to be less predictable and linear than it might be at other universities. Likewise, the history of colleges and departments within the university tends to be tangled, with units being continually absorbed, spun off, created, eliminated, or merged.

My day-to-day tasks as the University Archivist include the processing of long-inaccessible collections, soliciting and accepting new materials from university departments and organizations, and assisting records creators with their records management duties. Much of my time lately has been taken up with the consolidation and arrangement of our directories and publications. The majority of the reference questions I receive, from inside and outside the university, can be answered with information from yearbooks, course catalogs, annual reports, or official newsletters, but these documents have been dispersed through the Reuther's stacks. By consolidating and describing these resources, I'm improving my ability to provide accurate information quickly to the genealogists, alumni, historians, and reporters who contact me with requests.

The Wayne State University Archives consist of approximately 9000 linear feet of correspondence, papers, files, publications, reports, and other documents—a little less than two miles of shelving, and that's not even counting our collections of photographs and audio-visual materials. I'm glad to curate the institutional history of this fascinating and complicated institution, and happy to do so in the context of the Reuther Library, a place that understands the value of work and the labor that's required to keep a large organization alive, important, and relevant. ■



In August 2010, the Reuther Library launched its blog to highlight collections and topics.

Please visit our Blog:

<http://www.reuther.wayne.edu/node/6885>

For more Reuther updates, like us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/reutherlib

Follow our AFSCME Archivist on Twitter:

<http://twitter.com/@AFSCMEArchivist>

Solidarność

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which exhibit fabricator Katie Dowgiewicz crafted. In the opening days of the strike in Gdańsk, workers painted the list of demands they were seeking from



the government on plywood sheets and hung them on the gates of the shipyard. After martial law was declared, and displayed copies of the Demands were confiscated, the curator of the Central Maritime Museum hid the original boards in his attic, where they remained until 1996 when he returned them to the museum.

With the three dimensional objects in place and writing underway, there were still visual holes to be filled to complete the exhibit. Thanks to extensive outreach in the community, several items were loaned to the Reuther for the exhibit. The American Federation of Teachers provided posters and other memorabilia, including a piece of barbed wire from the Berlin Wall. The Polish Mission at Orchard Lake, Michigan coordinated introductions to Lech Wałęsa and other dignitaries in Poland. Mike Smith had the opportunity to meet with Wałęsa's assistant to discuss the ex-

hibit. He later went to Poland to visit with various leaders within Solidarity and to secure the loan of photographs for display. Archivists Dan Golodner and Elizabeth Clemens contacted Tamara Sochacka, Executive Director of the Hamtramck Public Library, and discovered that she not only had amazing stories to tell about her days in Poland during the early 1980s, but also photographs and artifacts she was willing to loan the Reuther.

During the weeks leading up to the opening, a number of Reuther staff members assisted in the back-breaking work of dismantling, moving, and reassembling exhibit units. As final touches on the wall and fence were completed, the exhibit team was still printing photographs coming in from Poland and rushing to get text to the translators. The exhibit team and most of the staff spent many nights and weekends pulling the exhibit together. Somehow, everything fell into place at the last minute.

For the exhibit team, the opening was a whirlwind of press interviews, repeatedly spelling last names, and posed photographs. Once everyone caught their breath, they were overwhelmed by the immense awe that filled the guests. People commented on the exhibit's vivid posters and moving text, and some thought the replica brick wall came directly from Poland. When Lech Wałęsa approached the podium and began to speak, members of the exhibit team blended into the crowd and enjoyed the culmination of their very hard work. ■

SEIU District 925 Educational Research Scholarship for the Study of Women in Organized Labor *Allison Elias, First Recipient*

In 2010, the SEIU District 925 Legacy Project, in conjunction with the Walter P. Reuther Library, established the SEIU District 925 Educational Research Scholarship for the Study of Women in Organized Labor, which grants up to \$1,000 to a scholar to cover travel and related expenses to perform research in the 925 collections at the Reuther Library.

Allison Elias is the first recipient of the scholarship. A PhD candidate in history at the University of Virginia, she is researching labor organizing among U.S. clerical workers from the 1960s to the 1990s, examining the influence of the second-wave feminist movement on their strategies and activities. Elias is poised to make an important contribution to the literature by exploring the intersection between the women's movement and organized labor.

In 1973, a group of women clerical workers in Boston, regularly called "honey" and "sweetheart," ensconced with invisibility, demeaned with low salaries and benefits, and required to perform duties often not listed in their job descriptions, came together to form 9to5, the National Association of Working Women. Recognizing the need to engage in the larger labor movement, women from 9to5 approached a number of unions, including SEIU, with the view of affiliating. In 1975, a core group of clerical workers from 9to5 worked with SEIU to form SEIU Local 925 based in Boston. This partnership resulted in a powerful social and political advocate for office workers, one of the largest, poorest paid, most exploited, and least unionized segments of the nation's workforce. Karen Nussbaum became 925's first president and, soon after, 925 chapters were formed else-

where in the United States. "Raises, Rights and Respect" became the organization's rallying cry. Despite the importance of this SEIU affiliate, little in the way of academic research leading to publication has been pursued on their members or leaders. The Scholarship was created to encourage such research.

During her recent research visit, Ms. Elias had the opportunity to mine documents from the SEIU District 925

Records and transcripts of the 47 oral histories comprising the Service Employees International Union: District 925 Legacy Project. In reviewing records regarding 925 campaigns in universities, Ms. Elias found that, "the clerical union pushed for particular demands like VDT (Video Display Terminal) safety, affirmative action enforcement, childcare on site, adequate maternity leave, sexual harassment clauses, and seniority rights after leaves of absences. Many of the concerns that would affect working women in particular became priority issues at the bargaining table."

The Reuther Library and the 925 Legacy project will extend the Scholarship for a second year. A description and application are available on the Reuther's website. ■



WSU Archives Program's 50th Anniversary

Archivist of the United States David Ferriero Visits Wayne State



Dr. Philip P. Mason

Dr. Philip P. Mason, Distinguished Professor Emeritus in the History and Library Science Departments at Wayne State University and past president of the Society of American Archivists (SAA), has left quite a legacy. Last year, the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, which Dr. Mason founded, celebrated its 50th anniversary, while the institution housing this collection, the Reuther Library, celebrated its 35th anniversary. This year, another of Dr. Mason's creations reached 50: the Wayne State University Archival Administration Program. Begun as part of the History Department, the Archives Program was, in 1961, one of just a handful in the country. By 1971, the courses offered in the program were cross-listed with Library Science. In his role as director of the Archives Program at Wayne for over 30 years, Dr. Mason taught or advised over 250 archives professionals, including Nancy Zimmelman Lenoil, the State Archivist of California; Frank Boles, Director of Central Michigan University's Clarke

Historical Library and SAA past president; Diane Vogt-O'Connor, Chief of the Conservation Division of the Library of Congress; and the majority of the current staff at the Reuther Library. The Archives Program at Wayne has always emphasized collaboration with local institutions so that students can pair theory with practice. The current director of the program, Dr. Joseph Turrini, hopes to continue to expand the program to prepare students for the digital world and dealing with the challenges that electronic records present.

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of this historic program, the Archivist of the United States, David Ferriero, visited Wayne State on September 22, 2011. While on campus, Ferriero, whom President Obama appointed in 2009, toured the Reuther Library, and spoke to staff and students. In just two years, Ferriero has led the National Archives to launch its Electronic Records Archive, a vast undertaking that seeks to collect and archive the electronic records produced by all agencies and divisions of the federal government. Wayne State was honored to have such a leader recognize the role Wayne State has played in developing archival education.

Reuther Staff Accomplishments

Above and Beyond

Troy Eller, the archivist for the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), represented the Reuther Library at an international conference in Paris, France in September 2011. Troy presented at "Women & Gender Studies: Where Do We Stand?," a symposium hosted by the Commission on Women in Science, Technology, and Medicine, part of the International Union of History and Philosophy of Science. During a session on American archives of women in science and medicine, Troy discussed how she integrated archival outreach into SWE's 60th anniversary celebrations in 2010 and how she plans to connect women engineers to their shared history in the future. She also discussed the 60th anniversary edition of the *Journal of the Society of Women Engineers*, released this fall. The *Journal* features articles by interdisciplinary scholars from around the country who brought a critical eye to the materials in SWE's archival collections at the Reuther. Coming from various backgrounds, the stories and insights in the authors' papers provide a deeper understanding of the status of women engineers, past and present.



Troy Eller

Dan Golodner, the Reuther's American Federation of Teachers (AFT) archivist has unionism in his blood. The son of an AFL-CIO official, Dan was raised without grapes, boycotted Coors beer before he even knew what beer was, walked picket lines, and sang labor songs. When Dan was hired at Wayne State,

he became a member of AAUP/AFT Local 6075, the union that represents faculty and academic staff, before he even got his campus ID. In 2006, Dan co-founded and became coordinator of the political action committee (PAC) for the union.

As PAC Coordinator, Dan's duties include mobilizing and educating members and raising money. The PAC sent delegations to Lansing, presented at legislative committee meetings, hosted a town hall meeting on campus, ran Get Out The Vote campaigns, and raised money for candidates who support issues of concern to the union, the university, and Wayne State students. Dan also instituted awards luncheons to celebrate academic staff who earn Employment Security Status (ESS) or promotions to increase staff's pride in their accomplishments. Dan also served as member-at-large to the union executive board from 2007 until this year.

In recent years, AFT sent him to help organize workers. Dan has worked on campaigns locally and at the University of Oregon and the University of Illinois at Chicago. Organizing re-



Dan Golodner

quires a lot of work and discussion, but Dan says it's "definitely worth the pay off when someone signs a card." About the line between archivist and activist, Dan says, "We can still be neutral and transparent with our collections even though we are active in the movement. How else do we understand what to save if we are not a part of the history?" ■

Newly Opened Collections Continued

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Detroit Committee for Responsible Banking Records
 Ellen Hippeli Papers (Society of Women Engineers)
 Norman McRae Papers, Part 2
 Merrill-Palmer Institute: Dr. Esther McGinnis Records
 Merrill-Palmer Institute: Dr. Francis H. Palmer Records
 Merrill-Palmer Institute: Dr. Michael D. Usdan Records
 Merrill-Palmer Institute: William McKee Records
 John Musial Papers
 Schools of the 21st Century Records
 Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) Records, Part 3

Marion Josephine Wright Papers
Wayne State University:
 Preservation Wayne Records
 Wayne State University Alumni Association, Wayne State Magazine
 Wayne State University Alumni Directories
 Wayne State University Alumni News
 Wayne State University Campus News
 Wayne State University College of Nursing Center for Health Research Newsletters
 Wayne State University College of Nursing Publications
 Wayne State University Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Allied Health Professions Publications
 Wayne State University Faculty

Newsletters
 Wayne State University Faculty and Staff Handbooks
 Wayne State University Health Service Annual Reports
 Wayne State University Law School Newsletters
 Wayne State University Law School Student Directories
 Wayne State University Newsletter
 Wayne State University Office of Marketing and Communications, Life@Wayne
 Wayne State University School of Medicine Alumni Report
 Wayne State University School of Medicine Student Directories
 Wayne State University Student Handbooks

Reuther Library Digital Initiatives

During the past year, the Reuther's digital horizon snapped more sharply into focus. Thanks to work being conducted on the Reuther's website, initiatives that had once been considered experimental and small-scale have been expanded and better defined. Collectively, these projects have added great value to the overall holdings of the Reuther Library.

The Reuther's content-centric website, to date, boasts over 4000 images carefully placed into four main groups: The Labor Movement and Organizations, Urban Affairs and Planning, Wayne State University, and Events at the Walter P. Reuther Library. The four main groupings are further subdivided, which generate various amounts of traffic. This past year the "Tony Spina General Collection" was the most frequently viewed gallery. Collection abstracts are also a very popular area of the website and remain the primary access point for researching our manuscript collections.

Data taken from user statistics indicate that roughly one in three visitors either view a collection abstract or an image when visiting online. This number is great considering that our site received over 66,000 visits last year. While our collection abstracts have been an area of great interest and further enhancement, so too have our other online content types. In the period from August 2010 until August 2011, Reuther staff members have published 28 blog posts on topics ranging from collection spotlights to historic events and holidays. This area of our website has become very popular in the past year, and contains well-researched and finely written posts.

Thanks to efforts being undertaken by staff, interns, vol-

unteers, and part-time help, the Reuther is poised to enter into new and more sophisticated initiatives. One such instance under development is called the Reuther Finding Aid Repository. Built upon the eXtensible Text Framework (XTF), an open source digital content platform developed by the California

Digital Library (CDL), this repository marries efforts of our EAD-XML finding aid initiative with that of a powerful full-text indexer. The system renders the EAD (Encoded Archival Description) guide into a web page easily viewable in all modern browsers. The advantages over our traditional guides are significant, but most important is the interoperability of the XML encoded data. This means that the guides we create today will

remain useful far into the future. While far from complete, the Reuther Finding Aid Repository is



presently available for test purposes.

With the fiscal year coming to a close we can look back on these successes and take pride in our efforts. Images and abstracts are only the beginning. Efforts to bring the many and wondrous Reuther materials online will continue to be a primary objective in the future. ■



From the Reference Desk

How Our Collections Are Used

The Reuther Library reference desk has been busy during the past year, and there is quite a list of productions to show for it:

Steve Babson, Dave Riddle, and David Elsila published *The Color of Law: Ernie Goodman, Detroit, and the Struggle for Labor and Civil Rights* in October 2010. This biography of Detroit civil rights lawyer Ernie Goodman put out by Wayne State University Press had the three authors camping out in the Reuther for years.

In August 2011, William H. Adler published *The Man Who Never Died: The Life, Times, and Legacy of Joe Hill, American Labor Icon*. This biography of the Wobbly leader relied on the Reuther's impressive Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) collection.

Two books on the United Farm Workers (UFW) are slated for fall 2011 publication, *A Movable Feast: The History of the United Farm Workers and the Grape Boycott* by Matthew Garcia and *Trampling Out the Vintage: Cesar Chavez and the Two Souls of the United Farm Workers* by Frank Bardacke. Both authors relied on the Reuther's extensive UFW collections that consist of both paper records and audiovisual materials.

The Reuther Library Audiovisual Department also provided photos and film for a variety of projects in the last year. Michael Moore has called *Brothers on the Line*, a documentary exploring the legacy of the Reuther brothers (Walter, Victor, and Roy), made by Victor's grandson Sasha Reuther, "one of the most

important documentaries of the year." Sasha has become a regular face in the Reuther AV hallway as he committed his family's legacy to film.

Reuther Library video was used in one of the last episodes of *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. The episode focused on escaped convict Susan LeFevre who lived as productive citizen Marie Walsh for 32 years before being caught again. LeFevre escaped from a Michigan prison in 1976.

Reuther AV gave "the perfect photo" to Dori Bernstein, the director and producer of the documentary, *Carol Channing: Larger Than Life*. The film about the 90-year old actress is an official selection at the 2011 Tribeca Film Festival. Reuther AV also provided photos of the old Michigan Central Railroad Station to Discovery Channel's 3-D network called 3NET for the show *Forgotten Planet* for "Episode 5: Chile/Detroit."

Reuther AV also provided memorabilia and photographs for exhibits at the Maryland Institute College of Art, the Tahoe Maritime Museum, and the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library. ■



Carol Channing outside Detroit's Fisher Theater stage entrance in 1963.

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

Walter P. Reuther Library
5401 Cass Avenue
Detroit, MI 48202

GENERAL INFORMATION

Reading Room hours:

Monday-Tuesday - 11 a.m.-6:45 p.m.

Wednesday-Friday - 9 a.m.-4:45 p.m.

Business hours:

Monday-Friday - 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Phone: 313-577-4024

Fax: 313-577-4300

www.reuther.wayne.edu